

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/803,893

Examiner

Christine Sung

Applicant(s)

IYAMA, TATSUO

Art Unit

2884

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 3/19/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-19.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 0304
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-19 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-6, none of the prior art of record discloses or makes obvious a method of managing image recording mediums, namely the step of selecting an image recorder for a particular subject/patient based on the predetermined subject information. Conventional patient identification/imaging systems (see below) are generally concerned with matching patient information to the generated images, but do not disclose selecting a type of imager/phosphor to match the patient information.

Regarding claims 7-19, none of the prior art of record specifies or makes obvious an apparatus for managing a image recording medium, namely the image recording medium selector for selecting the image recording medium that matches the predetermined subject information. Conventional patient identification/imaging systems (see below) are generally concerned with matching patient information to the generated images, but do not disclose selecting a type of imager/phosphor to match the patient information.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. US Pre Grant Publication 2005/0227145 A1- this reference discloses an image output controlling method, where the size of the image is automatically controlled.
- b. US Pre Grant Publication 2005/0205813- this reference discloses a commonly assigned and similar invention.
- c. US Patent 5,865,745 A- this reference discloses a conventional device where the storage phosphors/imagers are automatically loaded (column 4, lines 9-19) and not selected to match a patient's identification information.
- d. US Patent 6,431,440 B1- this reference discloses a conventional patient ID/imaging unit, where the patient's information is matched up with the images already taken.
- e. US Patent 5,418,355 A- this reference discloses a conventional storage phosphor with a barcode affixed to the phosphor to match the image to the patient.
- f. US Patent 6,556,698 B1- this reference disclose a method and system for matching the phosphor to the patient.
- g. US Patent 5,130,739 A- this reference discloses a method of automatically optimizing exposure of an image, but does not disclose selecting a phosphor based on the patient's information.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christine Sung whose telephone number is 571-272-2448. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday 7-3 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CS

Christine Sung
Examiner
Art Unit 2884


OTILIA GABOR
PRIMARY EXAMINER